



e-News

April 8, 2020

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org



EASTER: "Thy Will Be Done" Series

As Lent unfolds into **the Wonder and Triumph of Easter** we visit once more, the profound prayer of Jesus. "Not as I will, but as you will," Jesus prayed to his Father the night before he went to the cross for our redemption. This prayer becomes complete in Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. **On this Easter Sunday**, even in the midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic we can celebrate the transformation of life from death in Jesus' Resurrection. We look to God who brings hope out of despair, healing out of suffering, and light that overcomes all the darkness. Because of Jesus' Resurrection we too can pray, "Not my will, but your will Lord."

Easter Sunday, April 12 "God's Will and the New Creation" Je-
sus, Mark 16:1-8, Psalm 86:1-11, I Corinthians 15:1-8

We are worshipping online. Sunday morning you will be able to access our **Worship Service online** at YouTube and online at Facebook. See the directions below.

I am **preaching** this Easter Sunday on "God's Will and the New Creation." We will visit the empty tomb and celebrate the great and astounding, good news of Jesus' Resurrection in the scriptures. Please read Mark 16:1-8, Psalm 86:1-11, and I Corinthians 15:1-8 to prepare for worship this Easter Sunday. We will think about how the disciples and followers of Jesus went through the dark despair of the cross to the unexpected light of Resurrection. How great it is to say, Jesus is Alive! How wonderful to know that Jesus is alive and full of love for us, even in this coronavirus devastating time.

May you rest in the presence of the One who suffered and still lives in our world and with all who love him. He still is the Risen Savior!

--Craig

YOUTH NEWS

Happy Holy week! Don't forget your pinky promise! Be sure to join us for the Maundy Thursday/ Good Friday service!

WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED

The easiest way to stay in touch with everything that is going on at First Pres is via our Website: www.firstpresjoliet.org

The website will provide you with the latest news about our congregational life, and also provide you with access to the latest Worship Service and Devotional Blogs. For the foreseeable future we will post a weekly sermon along with prayers and music, so we can continue to worship as a congregation even if we are not meeting in our building.

Secondly, I would encourage you to be on Facebook and follow our First Pres Joliet page at facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchOfJoliet. The Facebook page is a very fast way to deliver information to everyone, and also a great communication tool.

Lastly you can download our Church App for your phone that will bring the convenience of the website to your phone. The App can be downloaded on both iOS and Android phone. Go to your App store and search for The ShareFaith App. Once you download the App search for First Pres Joliet in the FIND YOUR CHURCH dialog box. Once you select First Pres Joliet click save and you will be good to go.

As always you can call us at the office (voicemails will be checked remotely, please leave a return number) or on our cell phones:

Office: 1(815)727-9259
Craig Herr: 1(815)922-5269
Bo Mircea: 1(815)715-9429

April 5, 2020

Attendance - 420 unique views combined from Facebook and YouTube
Stewardship Report
2019-2020 Budget: \$768,135

Year to Date Income \$697,135
Year to Date Expenses \$711,965
2018-2019 Bequest/Gift Income Received—\$6000
Received for bathroom renovation—\$10,825

You may text your gift to FPJ at (815)205-3044 or go online to use a credit card

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

No one is known to be in the hospital

THE PASTOR'S CORNER... Craig Herr, Head Pastor

Easter Sunday, April 12, Christ is Alive! We celebrate new life in Jesus who lives still, who loves still, and who still works in our lives. Come Worship with us Online again this Sunday.

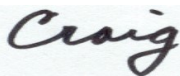
Our Holy Week Service will be available this Thursday evening at 5:00 p.m. This service is a **combination Maundy Thursday-Good Friday Service**. We will celebrate communion in worship together. Please prepare the elements, bread and grape juice, and set your table for the service so we can all eat the bread and drink the cup together. If you are unable to find bread or grape juice at home then make some substitutes for this service.

For Pastoral Care please call the office to leave a message to talk with a pastor or call us on our cell phones. We will be available and can access our messages from home. Some of our **volunteers are calling members** who may have trouble accessing the website, e-mails and social media. They are making phone calls to members who are by themselves.

Please continue to support First Pres. with your financial resources. We are paying all of our staff during this time, even if they cannot come in to work or work at home for us. We are receiving a special offering in April to support Rhobi, Bhoki, and Lucia at **Angel House Mission**.

A New Sermon Series Begins on April 19, **“Resources for Difficult Days.”** In this Series we will study and seek the sources of strength, which God provides in the scriptures and the life of the followers of Jesus. The early church knew seasons of hardship. The early Christians followed Jesus through some incredibly challenging chapters in their world. The first sermon in the series is **“Love and Affirmation.”** The sermon text is from Mark 1:9-12. We all need to live in the loving affirmation of God through the Lord Jesus.

Please pause and **take time to pray** for our church, community and world. Please take some time **to care for others in these days.** Prayer opens us up the hopeful presence of God.



We will have **one worship service online** with both traditional and contemporary songs in the service. Look for it online, on YouTube (firstpresjoliet) or Facebook or use the link we will e-mail to you Saturday evening. Or just use this link to go right to the YouTube page for our worship service <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCahURWKPHg3c6ARq8kJdduw>

And this is even better. If you have a Smart TV, Apple TV, Roku, Amazon Fire you can watch it on your TV. You type into the Search Box on the YouTube App FirstPresJoliet

The Office is Open Remotely and Functioning with Staff working at home. We are also receiving mail at the church office each day so you can use the mail to communicate with us and support the life, ministry, and mission of First Pres. We will continue to communicate with you and provide online Worship Services from our homes and the church as is our new way of worship in these times.

Easter Flowers are Coming to the Church. We ordered Easter Flower at the beginning of the year and the grower has been growing them. We could not cancel the order. So please make your orders as usual. We will publish a PDF of who the flowers are given in honor of or in memory of for you to have. We will be setting up the flowers in the Sanctuary/Worship Center for our Easter Service. So, you will see the beautiful flowers in our Easter Worship Online Service. Something to look forward to!

“We will let you know when we Can Open for Worship and Ministry once again. Given the recent news, we know we will be closed through the month of April. I look forward to the day, when in consultation with the Session, we can say it is wise and feasible for us to reopen the church facilities. Right now, please pay attention to the church Website www.firstpresjoliet.org and church E-mails and E-News for the latest communications. We will let you know when we can open up again.

All of our virtual Worship Services are available on our YouTube page, you can just search for FirstPresJoliet.

Easter Flowers

If you would like to donate flowers to decorate the sanctuary for Easter, please fill in below and mail to the church office or place in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Please make checks payable to “First Presbyterian Church—Easter Flowers.”

How many (at \$12/pot):

_____ Lilies _____ Tulips _____ Mums

Our/My Easter Flowers are given:

_____ to the Glory of God
_____ to the Glory of God and in loving memory of loved ones
_____ to the Glory of God and in loving memory of



Name _____

(please use exact wording to be printed in the booklet)

PLEASE SUBMIT ORDERS BY THIS SATURDAY

Flowers will still be displayed in worship service and orders can be emailed to office@firstpresjoliet.org

FLOWER PICK UP: Easter Flowers will be available for pick up **Mon 4/13 and Tues 4/14 from 11-2.** Drive to the back of the church by the ramp and a masked and gloved custodian will be there to bring you your choice of flowers.